

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete list of claims. The claims below replace all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 13, 15, 16 and 25.

1. (Currently Amended) A housing for an electronic system, the housing comprising:
 - an interface opening operable to expose an interface connector that is mounted to an interface held by the housing and coupled to circuitry disposed within the housing; and
 - a passage having a first opening adjacent to the interface opening, having a second opening and a third opening, wherein at least one of the openings opens to an environment outside the housing without exposing the circuitry to the outside environment, the circuitry disposed in the housing not being disposed in the passage, the passage being operable to hold a communication medium that includes a communication connector attached to the interface connector and that extends from the interface connector through the first opening and the second or third openings.
2. Canceled
3. (Previously Presented) The housing of claim 1 wherein the housing includes:
 - a back comprising the interface opening, and
 - a top covering the passage.
4. (Previously Presented) The housing of claim 1 wherein the third opening is adjacent the second opening.
5. (Previously Presented) The housing of claim 1 wherein:
 - the third opening is adjacent the second opening, and
 - the housing includes a top covering the passage, and a cap operable to close the third opening.
6. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein the passage is substantially straight.

7. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein the passage is substantially rectangular.
8. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein:
 - the first opening has an area,
 - the second opening has an area, and
 - the area of the first opening does not equal the area of the second opening.
9. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein:
 - the first opening has an area,
 - the second opening has an area, and
 - the area of the first opening is smaller than the area of the second opening.
10. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein the passage tapers.
11. (Original) The housing of claim 1 wherein:
 - the housing further comprises a storage compartment, and
 - the second opening opens to the storage compartment.
12. (Previously Presented) The housing of claim 1 wherein:
 - the housing further comprises a storage compartment, and includes a top covering the passage, and
 - the third opening is located on the top, and the second opening opens to the storage compartment.
13. (Currently Amended) An electronic system, comprising:
 - circuitry having an interface; and
 - a housing that holds the circuitry, the housing defining an interface opening in which the interface is mounted and defining a passage having a first opening adjacent to the interface, having a second opening and a third opening, the circuitry that the housing holds not being disposed in the passage, the passage being operable to hold a communication medium coupled to the interface and to a device

external to the housing without exposing the circuitry to the outside environment, wherein the medium extends from the interface through the first opening, and the second or third openings.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the communication medium comprises a cable.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
 - computer circuitry having an interface; and
 - a housing that holds the circuitry, the housing defining an interface opening in which the interface is mounted and defining a passage having a first opening adjacent to the interface, having a second opening and a third opening, the circuitry held by the housing not being disposed in the passage, the passage being operable to hold a communication medium coupled to the interface and to a device external to the housing without exposing the circuitry to the outside environment, wherein the medium extends from the interface through the first opening, and the second or third openings.
16. (Currently Amended) A method for coupling an external device to an interface mounted to a housing of an electronic system, the housing defining a passage and holding circuitry of the electronic system, the method comprising:
 - connecting a communication medium to the interface;
 - inserting the communication medium through the passage via first and second passage openings, the first opening being adjacent to the interface and the second opening being adjacent to the external device, the circuitry that the housing holds not being disposed in the passage;
 - and
 - connecting the communication medium to the external device.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the second opening opens to an interior of a storage compartment defined by the housing.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the second opening opens to an environment outside the housing.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising disposing the external device on top of a storage compartment defined by the housing.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising storing the external device in a storage compartment defined by the housing.
21. Canceled.
22. (Previously Presented) The housing of claim 1 wherein the communication medium extends through the interface opening.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising disposing the external device on top of the passage.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising:
 - connecting a second communication medium to the interface;
 - inserting the second medium through the passage via the first passage opening and a third passage opening, the third opening being adjacent to a second external device; and
 - connecting the second medium to the second external device.
25. (Currently Amended) An electronic system comprising:
 - circuitry including an interface and a processor operable to execute a program that causes the processor to perform a function;
 - a housing containing the circuitry and having a back that holds the interface; and
 - a passage defined by a portion of the housing that has a sidewall and a bottom, the bottom disposed between the passage and the circuitry, the passage having a first opening adjacent the interface, a second opening, and a third opening, the circuitry that the housing contains not being disposed in the passage, the passage being operable to hold a communication medium coupled to the interface and to a device external to the housing without exposing the circuitry in the housing to the outside environment, wherein the medium extends from the interface through the first opening, and the second or third openings.
26. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a top that covers the passage to form a tunnel.

27. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a top releasably fastened to at least one of the sidewalls to convert the passage into a tunnel.
28. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the system is a personal computer.